



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WINTER COUNT SHOWS NO ADDITIONAL WHOOPERS AT ARANSAS REFUGE

The annual January aerial survey of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge resulted in a count of 32 whooping cranes, the Department of the Interior reports.

This is the same number counted in late November, indicating that the bird or birds reported at various places in the mid-Mississippi Valley have failed for some reason to reach the wintering ground.

According to officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, three fully grown whoopers which went to the nesting grounds last spring failed to return to the wintering grounds. Wintering ground population now is 23 adults and nine young. This is the highest number of young reported in the twenty years records have been kept. There are six more whoopers in captivity, five in New Orleans and one in San Antonio.

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